

REMARKS

Claims 87-148 are pending. Claims 138-151 are new claims supported by the specification and do not introduce new matter. Please cancel claims 1-86 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Canceled claims 1-86 were originally copied from claims 1-86, respectively, of U.S. Patent No. 6,456,938 issued to Kent D. Barnard on September 24, 2001, for the purpose of preserving the right to provoke an interference. These claims have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue these claims at a later date.

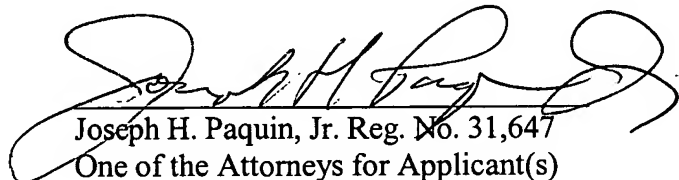
Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge an appropriate fee for the entry of this preliminary amendment. If any additional fee is due for entry of this preliminary amendment by the Examiner, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 13-0206.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned directly, at (312) 984-7679, should there be any issues or questions on this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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